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Veröffentlichungsversion / Published Version
Konferenzbeitrag / conference paper

Empfohlene Zitierung / Suggested Citation:

Oltean, A. (2017). The image of Israel in the published documents regarding the bilateral politics of Romania-Israel during the years 1948-1969. In I. Horga, D. Pantea, & M. Brie (Eds.), *The image of the other in the European intercultural dialogue* (pp. 197-232). Saarbrücken: Lambert Academic Publishing. <https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:0168-ssoar-59551-6>

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The Image of Israel in the published documents regarding the bilateral politics of Romania – Israel during the years 1948- 1969.

Abstract: This paper deals with the problem of the emigration of Romanian Jews in Israel as revealed by a few historical writings and in published documents. The Romanian Jews' emigration in Israel was a continuous process in spite of the communist regime established in Romania after the war and it was one of the main priorities of Romanian–Israeli diplomatic relations. The research focused on the years 1948-1969. The relationships between Romania and Israel evolved in time, manifesting interest in economic life, cultural life, human rights field, migration, religion.

Keywords: Jews, Romania, Israel, diplomacy, cold war, emigration

1. The emigration of Romanian Jews in Israel during the years 1948-1953

The evolution of diplomatic rapports Romania – Israel can be reconstituted from the documents published in the collection *Romania – Israel. Diplomatic documents 1948- 1989*¹. (Bleoancă et al, 2000)

The Ministry of External Affairs of the state of Israel answers to the telegram from June 9 1948 by asking from Romanian state to acknowledge the state of Israel. From the very beginning, the state of Israel shows its consent concerning the idea of emigration of the Jews of Romania. Thus, by this first telegram, there are announced the decisions of the National Jewish Council: “Conseil a declare que Etat israélien sera ouvert [à l'] immigration [de] tous les juifs, se consacrera [au] développement du pays au profit de tous ses habitants, sera basé sur les principes [de] liberté, justice et paix, maintendra [l'] égalité sociale et politique, [de] tous citoyens sans distinction de race, religion ou sexe, garantira entière liberté de conscience, éducation, langue; sauvegardera la sainteté et inviolabilité de sanctuaires et lieux saints [de] toutes religions, se vouera [aux] principes [des] Charte [des] Nations Unies”. (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 4) After a telegram addressed by Ana Pauker to the minister of External Affairs of the provisional government of the state of Israel, the Romanian government declares he agrees with the establishment of a legation of Romanian state in Israel. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 4-5) Reuven Rubin was named extraordinary minister of Israel to Bucharest.

The problem of the Romanian Jews appears as a constant theme of negotiation between the Romanian diplomats and the Israeli one. In a telegram from March 11, 1949, it is shown that the Israeli government is worried by the evolution of the emigration of the Jews from Oriental Europe. The Israelis show their gratitude that Romanian government authorized the departure in Israel of several thousands of Romanians. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 6-10)

The state of Israel motivates its need of emigrants both because its military situation (it is surrounded by hostile neighbours), but also because of the need of employees for the economic development. These objectives required a growth of population of Israel and a professional quality of its population. The telegram stipulates that, in the past, the first groups of immigrants in Israel came to great extent from Oriental Europe. In several occasions, the representatives of Israel ask for guarantees from the Romania government that the emigration will continue. The aggressive attitude of the Romanian state concerning the Zionists movement and the anti- Zionist campaigns from the Romanian press provoked the worry of the Jewish state for which the Zionist were working. It was required the emigration in Palestine of 5000 of members of the movement Halutz for which the emigration was the most important goal in life. (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 10)

¹ Daniela Bleoancă et al., *România – Israel. Documente diplomatice 1948-1989*, coordonată de Victor Boștinăru, București, Editura Sylvi, 2000.

In the same time, the Romanian Legation established at Tel Aviv sent periodical reports to the Ministry of External Affairs from the country, Ana Pauker. In the reports there are relevant daily facts, as it would be the fact that Romanian diplomats did not have enough money at them, that they did not receive money from Israelis, that they were discontented with the hotel that the Israelis had chosen for them. In the dialogues with the Israeli representatives, the Romanian diplomats referred to the Romanian Jews more in terms of cohabiting nationalities than in terms of ethnic minorities. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 13) The Romanian diplomats represented one of the first legations established in Israel after the Soviet one, American, English and French.

The Zionists were not persecuted only by the Romanian communists, but also from the other states from Eastern Europe. In a discussion between Romanian diplomats and the Soviet ones, all agreed that the Zionists are bourgeois nationalists. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 14) In the same time, the documents relevant fragments from the life of the Romanian legation to Tel Aviv. Thus, the members of the legation faced difficulties at Tel Aviv because they did not know, the English language and the Hebrew, aspect that prevented them to employ a teacher of English language and a young man that made translation from Hebrew. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 17-19) They did not have any secretary, they did not have a car, they were suffering by the absence of their families. The lack of experience in the diplomatic world was also a great handicap.

The documents describe different concrete situations in the evolution of Romanian – Israeli relations. Thus, Ana Pauker enjoyed a special prestige in Israel. The Israeli minister of External Affairs, Moshe Sharett, named her „exceptional woman”. She was all the time informed of the evolution of the Romanian – Israeli relations during the period when she was minister of External Affairs. The president Adolphe Aribas acknowledged in front of the Romanian diplomats the special role which the Romanian Jews had in the construction of Israel. The documents describe aspects from the activity of the Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv. The Legation had relations with the authorities, political life, representatives of economic life and it was trying to get involved in the cultural life. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 24) The representatives of the legation shared their daily responsibilities. Thus, they were involved in the consular problems, daily payments, economic attributions and cultural, press relations. They received ideological materials from the Ministry of External Affairs which they had to read.

Still, it appeared aspects of controversy concerning the Romanian – Israeli relations which revealed the difficulties of emigration of the Jews of Romania. Thus, in a discussion with Romanian representatives, in 1949, the minister Ben Gurion asserts: „I am worried of the faith of the Jews who, wanting to come to Israel, do not have the permission of the Romanian government. Israel can not strengthen and develop only with the Jews from here and needs the Jews outside of Israel. The development of the relations between the two countries depends on the economic reports and on the emigration of the Jews who would like to leave from Romania. Please, be so kind, and send this information to the Romanian government”. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 26) The Romanian Ambassador promised that the Romanian state would give visas to the Israeli citizens. In another discussion, from October 19, 1949, the Minister of External Affairs of Israel draws the attention on the problem of emigration, because of the fact that the People's Republic of Romania will enact visas to the Israeli citizens. In another discussion, from October 19, 1949, he draws the attention on the issue of emigration, because of the fact that the People's Republic of Romania did not stop the emigrations that started in 1948, continuing to enact visas only for 100- 200 of persons. (Bleoancă et al., 2000:27) The Jewish citizens of Romania could not travel with the ship “Eylath” which was in the port and for which they had tickets. The Romanian authorities imposed to travel with the ship “Transilvania”, although it was partially destroyed. The discussions continued around this problem. In the same time, it was forbidden to Romanian Jews to emigrate in groups. As a consequence of the repeated requests of the Israeli officials to accelerate the emigration of Romanian Jews, the representative of the direction of the ministry of External Affairs of Romania formulated the next conclusion: “I underlined to be clear that the problem of Romanian Jewish citizens who would like to go to Israel is a problem that regards exclusively the authorities from the People's Republic of Romania and nobody can involve”. (Bleoancă et al., 2000:31) Moreover, it took place protests of the Israeli representatives against the arrestment of the leaders of the Zionist movement initiated by the Romanian state. The Minister Sharett said that there can not be diplomatic relations Romania – Israel, if it is not reached a consensus concerning the emigration of the Romanian Jews. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 33) In this sense, as a sign of protest, Israel redraws his diplomatic representatives from Romania, Rubin and Agami, writes the

minister at Tel Aviv, Nicolae Cioroiu, in November 21, 1949. The relations between Israel and Romania depended on the attitude of the Soviet Union: "Sharett will have to use his presence at United Nations Organization in order to reach an understanding with the Minister of External Affairs of Soviet Union in the problem of the relations with the Eastern block". (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 33)

The Romanian Legation from the Tel Aviv had a propagandistic role, disseminating to the personalities and Israeli institutions the press from Romania, newspapers such as "Scântea", "Roumanie nouvelle" and the newspaper "Unirea". The legation has connections with the communist Israeli party, furnishing materials in Romanian about the situation from Popular Republic of Romania. The Legation sent journals from Israel in Romania. (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 35) The emigration of Romanian Jews was a problem especially important for the state of Israel, because the Popular Republic of Romania had a bigger number of Jews from the countries of Oriental Europe, a well known aspect by the Israeli minister of External Affairs, Sharett. (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 37) Sharett describes the hostile attitude of the Romanian press towards the state of Israel as an impediment in the evolution of the relations Romanians- Israeli.

In the correspondence between the Romanian diplomats and the Minister of External Affairs of Romania appears the problem of the creation of a Romanian consulate in Ierusalim, in the situation in which the problem imposed was to establish the capital of Israel here. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 48)

After the recall of the minister- diplomat Rubin at Tel Aviv by the Israeli state, the newspapers wrote that if the government of Soviet Union will not change his hostile attitude towards the Zionism and Israeli state, the place of Rubin will remain free. (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 49)

Moreover, the Romanian diplomats had remarked the hostile attitude of Israeli press towards Romania. Only the press of Communist Israeli Party was not hostile to the Communist Romanian Party. It is represented by the newspapers "Kol Haam", "Al Itiahad", "People's voice" (Glasul poporului), "Kol Hapoel", "Kol Hanovar" which never took stance in front of the problem of the emigration of Jews from Romania, they did not discussed the problem of Zionism. (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 50) Among the activities of the Romanian legation it is remarked the organization of an exhibition with Romanian paintings, books, magazines and Romanian journals. They were presented Romanian movies, among which we remind you the Congress of intellectuals, the Cup of Youth, The city does not sleep and August 23.

The Israeli press protested against the prohibition of the emigration of Jews from Oriental Europe in Israel. Thus, the newspaper "Hafofe" published two articles about emigration in which it condemned the politics of Soviet Union, Popular Republic of Romania and Hungary: "What escaped from the furnaces is destroyed by assimilation. The emigration from Eastern Europe is a problem of life for us and must stay always at the day order. If Israel will not succeed to obtain the emigration, we are in front of a national catastrophe". (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 53)

In a telegram of Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv towards the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania, from January 18, 1950 it is shown that Israel decided the nomination of a new minister to Bucharest, but it was not decided yet whom to be. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 53) In another document, it is made a description of the representatives of the Legation of the United States, showing "the infiltration" of the United States in Israel. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 55) The plenipotentiary minister at Bucharest, named by the state of Israel, was Ehud Avriel, plenipotentiary minister at Prague and Budapest.

It had been appeared incidents that put in danger the Romanian – Israeli relations. Thus, at February 23, 1950, it was announced that the location of Romanian Legation in Israel was broken and some of its goods disappeared. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 60) It was required a new location for the personnel of the delegation. Other aspects of tension are frequent. Thus, the newspaper "Palestine Post" published a tendentious article – in the opinion of the Romanian legation at Tel Aviv – concerning the situation of Romanian Popular Republic and of the diplomacy from Israel in Romania. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 62) Ben Gurion, in an interview, talked about the persecutions against the cohabiting nationalities in Romania.

At April 28, 1950, a telegram of the Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv towards the Minister of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania assets that in the press it was published a declaration of the Popular Republic of Romania according to which starting with May 3 there have been made easier the formalities of emigration in Israel. The documents show that the entire Israeli press wrote about the nomination of Avriel as a minister in the Popular Republic of Romania. Instead of Avriel, in

Budapesta and Prague it was proposed dr. Eliasiv, director of the section "Eastern Europe" from the Ministry of External Affairs. Instead of Eliasiv it will be nominated an Israeli counselor in Moscow. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 68)

The documents shows different forms of manifestations of the economic crisis from Israel, considered more and more dependant by the American policy. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 70) There are made a lot of descriptions of the situation from Israel. Thus, the Zionists were against the Communist Israeli Party, the workers from Israel required the rise of the wages, the Israelis were suffering of Hungriness. Ben Gurion required a loan of 35 millions dollars from Americans and the support of the American Jewry. He organized a conference to Ierusalim where he invited 45 of wealthy Americans. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 71) The information was a complex one and probably exaggerated: "In this difficult economic situation, each new emigrant that comes up is a new hardening of the situation. More than 100 000 of people from camps don't have accommodation, they have no work, live without a perspective. But their number increases, always". (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 72) The Jews from Israel often critics the Romanian government: "But the main attacks against us concerned two questions: the propaganda from the country against the departures and the arrestment of some Zionists leaders. I communicated by telegraph, the attacks against us". (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 72) It is explained the fact that the hostile attitude of the Popular Republic of Romania is caused by the profound bounds that the state of Israel has with Americans. In the camps of emigrants where they were detained at the beginning the Romanian Jews are organized conferences, courses in Hebrew". (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 73)

The moments of tension in the Romanian – Israeli relations continued to manifest. Thus, the Israeli "Iedioth Ahronot" (The last news) and "Heruth" wrote that the delegation of Israel to United Nations will vote the proposal of Western powers to accuse Romania for not respecting the conditions of armistice and the annihilation of individual rights. The journal asserts that it will accuse Romania of anti- Zionist repressions, the prohibition of emigration in Israel and the arrestment of leaders of the Zionist movement, it is asserted in a telegram of Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv towards the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania, in September 21, 1950. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 75)

A constant theme of negotiation for the Israeli parties is the problem of Jewish emigration from Occidental Europe. Thus, the Zionist parties made from the emigration of the Jews in Israel the basis of their program. Paul Davidovici, one of the representatives of Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv, asserts that there are individuals in these parties that consider that the emigration in Israel has to be stopped or limited. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 77)

The arrestments of Zionist leaders are a constant theme of reflection with Israel. In several diplomatic documents published in the collection coordinated by Dumitru Preda and Victor Boștinăru are formulated protests of Israeli representatives with regards to these arrestments which infridged the human rights. The attacks of Israel against the Romanian state are considered by the Romanian diplomats as manifestations of American imperialism. It is asserted that, according to the law of repatriation elaborated by the government Ben Gurion, any Jew can emigrate in Israel.

It appears in the documents reflections of economic issues between Romania and Israel. Thus, madame Weizmann, the wife of the president of the state of Israel, asked from Romanian diplomats that Popular Republic of Romania to sell oil to the Israel. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 90) In the documents of the Romanian – Israelian relations, is reflected the detail that at Febuary 11, 1953, the Soviet government wanted to break the diplomatic relations with Israel as a consequence of the fact that at February 9, it exploded a bomb at the centre of the legation of Soviet Union at Tel Aviv, in spite of the fact that the president of Israel condemned this terrorist act and apologised to the authorities from Kremlin. The Russian – Isaeli relations were restaured at June 20, 1953. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 91)

The departure of Jews from the socialist countries in Israel surpass the monthly rate of 1200 of people. In a propagandistic style, the letters of Romanian Legation from Tel Aviv show that thousands of emigrants from Romania regret they emigrated in Israel and asked for their retun home.

At December 7, 1953, Moshe Sharett succeeded to Ben Gurion as prime minister. The diplomat Virgil Huțanu, one of the representatives of the Romanian Legation from Tel Aviv, shows that the demise of Ben Gurion was due to his own leadership: "In the period that preceded the confirmation of the tendency of Ben Gurion to resign and until to its presentation, the bourgeois press

worked hardly to present Ben Gurion to the population as a clean man, as a real leader of the people who did not have anything in common with the hardely internal and external situation in which it was the Israeli state. In articles, on whole pages, the newspapers were looking to show that the population regrets deeply that Ben Gurion leaves from the position of leader of the state and prime- minister and that it would be a great loss for the people.

From the party press, but also from the discussions with the local friends, it comes up that the real reason of resignation is not fatigue, but the negative consequences of his government both on political plan but also economical internal, but also on external political plan". (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 95)

As a conclusion of the analysis of the diplomatic reports Romania – Israel during the years 1948- 1953, the diplomatic relations appear full of difficulties, especially concerning the emigration of the Jews from Romania, but also in what concerns the persecution of Zionist leaders that followed after 1949.

2. The emigration of Romanian Jews in Israel during the years 1953- 1969

The problem of Jewish emigration from Romania to Israel (Zionism) was a central theme of negotiation between the Romanian and Israeli diplomats. Thus, on May 26, 1954 near the sinagogue of Tel Aviv, 700 Jews were staying in hunger strike, refusing to eat as a sign of protest against the persecution of Zionists in Romania². (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 99- 100) Foreign delegations visited the protesters and their purpose was to raise awareness against the Zionists trials in Romania. The reaction of Romanian authorities was, in the first instance, their intention to send a protest note against the Israelian involvement in internal affairs of Romanian Popular Republic³. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 101- 102) Protesters and the Israelian public opinion motivated that Zionism stayed at the base of the creation of the state of Israel that gathered together the Jews from everywhere and that the Israelian state can not watch with indifference the persecution of Zionist Jewish leaders in Eastern Europe⁴. (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 102-103) In the same time, the Israelians are pursuing their own support for Romanian Zionists, and had not a policy against the Romanian state and its social and political regime, according to the declarations of the prime- minister, Sharett⁵. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 103-104)

Another problem in the Romanian – Israelian diplomatic dialogue in the year 1954 was to conclude a commercial agreement between the Romanian state and Israel.⁶ (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 104-111) It appears in the documents the presence of John Gordon who was the representative in Israel of some of the Romanian societies. After the signing of these commercial agreements, Zeev Argaman, the Israeli business representative in Romania, offers to do an analysis of economic flux

² Daniela Bleoancă, Nicolae – Alexandru Nicolescu, Cristina Păiușan, Dumitru Preda, *România – Israel. 50 de ani de relații diplomatice (Romania – Israel. 50 years of diplomatic relations)*, volume I., 1948- 1969, 99. See the document entitled *Telegram of Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv towards the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning actions of protest concerning the measures taken at Bucharest against some Zionist Leaders*, p. 99-100.

³ *Ibidem*, 101. See the document entitled *Telegram of Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv towards the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning certain actions of protest towards the measures taken to Bucharest against some Zionist Leaders*, p. 100- 101.

⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 102. See the document entitled *Telegram of Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv towards the Minister of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning the reflection in Israeli press of the position of the government from Bucharest towards the problem of repatriations*, p. 102-103.

⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 103. See the document entitled *Communication of Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv addressed to the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning the position of the government from Bucharest in connection with the problem of repatriations and the answer of Israeli government* , p. 103- 104.

⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 105. See the document entitled *Report of the engineer Mihai Petri, the chief of Economic Romanian Legation, adressed to the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Romanian Republic concerning the opening of negotiations and the concludement of the first commercial agreement with Israel*, p. 104- 111.

between Romania and Israel of the situation existent before September, 1955⁷. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 111- 112) This analysis shows that it exists possibilities of development of the exchanges Romania – Israel. Israelian shows their interest to buy Romanian cereals for the next three years⁸. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 112)

Other interests of the Romanian – Israelian relations was to develop cultural relations between the two countries. Such an exemple was to organise a concert of Romanian popular music in Tel Aviv with 1000 of participants including Romanian and foreign diplomats⁹. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 113) The concert was very appreciated.

The documents published in the collection of documents *Romania – Israel diplomatic documents* signal also reasons of discontent in the relations Romania – Israel. Thus is revealed the attitude of Israelian press of hostility especially in the litigious cases like the problem of emigrations and reunification of families of Romanian Jews in Israel, or the problem of arrested Zionists in Romania¹⁰. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 114-117) Israelians officialities, as the minister of External Affairs of Israel, Golda Meyersohn involved in the negociations with Romanians to free the Jewish prisoners. She also took stand for the reunification of dismantled families from Romania and Israel¹¹. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 117-118)

In 1956, first semester, a certain opening appeared in the diplomatic relations Romania – Israel fostered by Israelian state which wanted to improve relations with the communist block. But, on the other hand, Israelian media, press and public sphere openly criticised the communist system. In the same time it appeared the problem of separated families and the wish of Israelian authorities to name a new minister to Bucharest¹². (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 118-121) In the same time, economic relations Romania – Israel were more fruitful than political ones. From Israel, the Romanian state imported medicines, cafee and coco.

Another fact that reveals cultural cooperation Romania – Israel, as it confirms the diplomat Elkana Margalit, Israeli diplomat to Bucharest, is that the minister of Israel in Romania saw at Jewish State Teatre the play Anna Frank¹³. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 124-125)

At August 9, 1957, a diplomatic document from the present collection of documents asserted that from 180 arrested Zionists, all were liberated after these negociations¹⁴. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 127-128) Other contemporary problems revealed by the diplomatic documents was the problem of Jewish emmigration to Israel that continues day by day. Zionist Leaders from Israel declared their availability to cooperate with revolutionary governments from Central and Eastern Europe in order to obtain the emigration of Zionist members from Central and Eastern Europe in Israel¹⁵. (Bleoancă et al.,

⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 111. See the document entitled *Note of audience with regard of entrance in the Ministry of External Affairs of Zeev Argaman, representative with businesses of Israeli state at Bucharest, in connection with the stage of bilateral economic relations*, p. 111- 112.

⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 112.

⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 113. See the document entitled *Telegram of Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning the echo in Israel of the concert of popular Romanian music*.

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 114. See the document *From the general report of Romanian legation at Tel Aviv in semester II – 1955, concerning the relations Israelo- Romanian*, p. 114- 117.

¹¹ *Ibidem*, p. 117. See the document *Note of speaking of Gheorghe Chitic, representative with business of Romania at Tel Aviv, with Golda Meir, new minister of External Affairs of the state of Israel, concerning the bilateral relations*, p. 117- 118.

¹² *Ibidem*, p. 118. See the document *From the general report of Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv on first Semester- 1956 concerning the relations Israel – Romania*, p. 118- 121.

¹³ *Ibidem*, p. 124. See the document *Note of conversation of Caius Frantescu, director of the Direction Protocol of the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania, with Elkana Margalit, representative with businesses of the state of Israel to Bucharest*, p. 124- 125.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 127. See the document *Note of speaking sent by Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv to the ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning the problem of reunification of Jewish families*, p. 127- 128.

¹⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 129. See the document *Note of speaking sent by Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning the problem of reunification of Jewish fammilies*, p. 128- 131.

2000: 128-131) In the opinion of the prime minister of Israel, Ben Gurion, the peace of Israel was depending of alia¹⁶. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 130)

The cooperation between the Jews of Israel and the Jews of Romania reaches from time to time religious nuances. A document sent by the Romanian legation to Tel Aviv to the Minister of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania was showing the view of the Israeli rabbi Isaac Nissim who expressed his opinion towards mosaic religion in Romania. In Romania there are two schools of Talmud- Thora and a few schools with teaching in idis language. The rabbi from Israel tried to send religious books to the Jews in URSS but he failed, and he hopes to send some books in Romania. He would like to meet the Jewish rabbi from Romania, Moses Rosen¹⁷. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 131-135) The rabbi draws the attention that most communist governments sustained the Arabians in Middle East, in the detriment of Israel. Romanian deputies share their opinion that in Israel there exist religious freedom.

In a document of 12 September 1957, it appears that there are litigious aspects between Romania and Israel, such as the problem of reunification of remaining members of Jewish families in Romania with the rest of their families, found in Israel. It appears that in Romania there are still 10-12.000 of Jews in Romania with a rate of emigration in Israel of a few hundreds/yearly. In this document, it appears the problem of a Romanian diplomat that considers that Israel is acting against his own interest when allowing a press campaign against countries with popular democracies, such as Romania¹⁸. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 138-141)

In order to approach the Eastern block, the Israeli diplomacy use the topic of cultural relations inviting the Soviets to a Congress of Atomic Energy, where they refused to go. Another attempt was to invite the Soviets to a Congress of Judaic Sciences, but they also declined participation. On the other hand, Israel refused to sell Russian science books on his territory¹⁹. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 140) In the same time, Israeli diplomats suspect that the Russians send arms to Egyptians and Syrians to fight against Israel. Towards these new diplomatic challenges, Romanian diplomacy came with two proposals: 1. to stop arms sending on both camps; 2. the countries from Near East are invited to talk among them the litigious problems.

In a declaration of Chivu Stoica, president of the Council of Ministers of Romanian Popular Republic, it was acknowledged the issue of Jewish sufferings in Europe: "The Government of Popular Republic of Romania knows which was the faith of Jews, the persecutions and the actions of annihilation to which Jewish population was submitted, together with the most population from fascist or found under fascist rule countries, during the Second World War"²⁰. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 145-146) The document, enacted in December, 1957, acknowledges that the problem of families reunification are solved in Romania case by case and where the claims are pertinent they are solved according to the legislation of Popular Republic of Romania.

The subject of families reunification is started over by Ben Aaron, secretary general of the party Ahdut Haavoda and member of Knesset who is very glad that the problem of Jewish emigrants from Romania is on the forefront and asserted that the Jews who come to Romania usually belongs to the "middle class"²¹. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 151- 153) Other problems that come up is that in 1958, the Arabians refuse to acknowledge the actual boundaries of Israel²². (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 153) They

¹⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 130.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 132. See the document entitled *Note of discussion sent by Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning the meeting with chief rabbi of sephardic cult from Israel and some aspects of the bilateral relations*, p. 131- 135.

¹⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 139. See the document *Note of discussion of Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv sent to the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning the stage of billateral relations and some aspects of the situation from Near East*, p. 138- 141.

¹⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 140.

²⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 146. See the document entitled *Letter of Chivu Stoica, president of the Council of Ministers of Popular Republic of Romania, addressed to David Ben Gurion, prime- minister of the state Israel, in the problem of fammilies reunifications*, p. 145- 146.

²¹ *Ibidem*, p. 151. See the document entitled *Note of conversation with the Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv with the delegation of the party Ahdut Haavoda sent to the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning the situation from Middle East and the Romanian – Israeli relations*, p. 151- 153.

²² *Ibidem*, p. 153.

take place some incidents from the boundary with Syria. During November- December 1958, weekly come from Romania 3-400 of Romanian Jews to Israel²³. Referring to the Jews that come from Romania, the minister of External Affairs of Israel, Golda Meir, says that they are people of good quality²⁴. (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 157)

In a document revealing the meeting of S. Bendor, the minister of Israel to Bucharest with Chivu Stoica, there are expressed, again, many thanks from Israel because the problem of families reunification continues to be solved and intensified by the Romanian state²⁵. (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 161-163) In the same document appear also the next conclusions: economic relations Romania – Israel will develop as a consequence of a commercial agreement; 34 000 of Jews registered to leave in Israel, but only 19 000 left. The problem of reunification of families is seen by the Romanian authorities as a humanitarian problem which must be solved²⁶. (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 161) In the same time, Israeli diplomats undertook the task of not letting Israel to cause any harm to Romanian state as a reward for emigrations from Romania to Israel. Golda Meir, was another diplomat who thanked to Romanian state for solving the problem of families reunifications. She also took stand in order to make the Romanian state to free some former employees of the Legation of Israel in Romania, arrested because they activated against the security of the Romanian state²⁷. (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 163-166) A fact that seems peculiar for Romanian diplomats, is how the Legation of Israel to Bucharest tries to act as the representative of Jewish minority in Romania, when it was obvious that the relation between the two countries were solved by international agreements. Among the interests of Israel in Romania, Golda Meir mentions: maintenance of contacts between Israel and Jewish population of Romania, maintenance of the volume of bilateral commercial relations (Israel is interested in the imports of oil and wood), the strengthening of the position of Israel in comparison with Arab countries by having good relations with the communist countries²⁸. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 165) In the same time, Israeli and Romanian officials admit that there are no cultural relations between Romania and Israel. Other problem of the time was the situation of the immobile goods of Orthodox Patriarchy in Israel and its restitution in the possession of the Orthodox Church. Bendor, the Jewish minister to Bucharest, wanted to obtain for the Romanian state, proves, for the accusations in the process of Adolf Eichmann.

Israel, in the years 1960, was an economy with a high productivity, with a rise of exports and imports in which had entered the foreign capital. Israel was representing in Asia, “the promontory of the civilized world”²⁹. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 167-185) The alliance between United States and Israel was a reality of cold-war years. In the same time, in the report of Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania it is mention the problem of Israeli relations with the country of Eastern block. In what concerns, the relations Israel – Soviet Union, are, in the opinion of the Romanian diplomats as cold as ever, Soviet Union regarding at Israel with enmity. Between Soviet Union and Israel do not exists cultural relations. Some Soviet movies were ruled on in Israel. The reality is that Israel often criticized Soviet Union by its press, official declarations, congresses, Knesset, etc³⁰. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 181) In Soviet Union, more and more synagogues are closed. In what concerns, the relations between Popular Republic of Poland and Israel, the public opinion from Poland considers the neo- Nazism and Jews are its enemies, they did not send

²³ *Ibidem*, p. 156. See the document entitled *Note of discussion of Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv with Yitzhak Korn, president of H.O.R. concerning the problem of emigration of Jewish population from Popular Republic of Romania*.

²⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 157. See the document entitled *Note of discussion of Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv with Golda Meir, minister of External Affairs of the state of Israel, concerning some aspects of the billateral relations and the situation of Ortodox Church from Jerusalem*, p. 157- 158.

²⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 161. See the document entitled *From the information of the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania addressed to Petre Manu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister of Romania at Tel Aviv, concerning the stage of the Romanian – Israeli Relations*, p. 161- 163.

²⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 161.

²⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 163-164. See the document entitled *Note of the Minister of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning the relations with the state of Israel*, p. 163- 166.

²⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 165.

²⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 171. See the document entitled *General report of Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv addressed to the Ministry of External Affairs concerning the internal and external politics of the state of Israel*, p. 167- 185.

³⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 181.

a delegation to Eichmann trial and Israel promised that it did not put forwards of reparations from Polish state to Israel. The economic relations Israel – Poland are modest³¹. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 182-183) In what concerns the relations between Israel and Czechoslovakia, they are cold, this state furnishing information in Eichmann trial. There are not cultural relations between the two states. Some Czech movies were ruled on in Israel. According to a survey 90% of the Israeli press is favorable to Czechoslovakia. Economic relations Czechoslovakia – Israel almost does not exist³². (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 184) And last, but not least, it appears in the documents the opinion of Romanian diplomats concerning the relations between Israel and Popular Republic of Romania. It seems that Israeli press is no more hostile to Romania. Romanian state resolved the situations of family reunifications. Commercial relations between the two countries are good. The Romanian Legation tried to make known the activity of Popular Republic of Romania in Israel³³. (Bleoancă et al., 2000:184- 185)

It seems that the problem of emigration of Romanian Jews in Israel was a problem that existed continuously, during the communist years, in the Romanian state. Thus, in October 16, 1961, V. Dumitrescu, vice-director of Ministry of External Affairs met Katriel Salmon, the minister of Israel in Romania. Salmon emphasized the cooperation between Romanian and Israeli authorities in order to accelerate the rhythm of these emigrations from Romania³⁴. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 193-195) The Minister of Israel referred to the development of economic relation between the two countries, and at the fact that he does want to undermine the internal solidarity of the Romanian state. In another note from December 18, 1961, Israel is suspected of wanting to get involved in the internal affairs of the Romanian state, and the Legation of Israel to Bucharest is accused that they broke the laws of the Romanian state and of Zionist manifestations among the Jewish masses³⁵. (Bleoancă et al. 2000: 195-197) The same note added that during 1958- 1960, 4 Israeli diplomats were named “persona non grata”.

Also, in December 18, 1961, the same document reveals the Israeli intention to establish cultural relations with Romania. Among the two states there still has to be solved some litigious situations such as the immobile property from Ierusalim of Romanian Orthodox Church and the return of the goods that formerly emigrated population from Romania to Israel that almost lost his material properties when they decided for emigration³⁶. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 197)

In a telegram of March 23, 1962 from Tel Aviv, a Romanian diplomat (n.n.- Popescu) informs the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from Bucharest that he was invited at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and informed about incidents that took place at the boundary with Siria, in the area of the lake Tiberia which is situated on the territory of Israel³⁷. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 198) Another problem was the visit of rabbi Moses Rosen from Romania in Israel. A telegram from September 10, 1963 informs the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that it was nominated the new minister of Israel in the Popular Republic of Romania, K. Salmon. Among the objectives of his new mandate are: economic development of Romania, the industrialization of Romania, the introduction of new techniques in agriculture. In a telegram of the Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning the relations between Israel and USA it is mentioned the visit of Mr. Feldman, counsellor of the American president in Israel³⁸. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 213-214) Among the debated problems were the security of Israel, Israeli – American cooperation in desalinization of sea water, the political evolution of the situation in the region of Jordan after the

³¹ *Ibidem*, p. 182- 183.

³² *Ibidem*, p. 184.

³³ *Ibidem*, p. 184-185.

³⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 193. See the document entitled *Note of conversations of Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania with Katriel Salmon, extraordinary minister and plenipotentiary minister of the state of Israel to Bucharest concerning the bilateral relations*, p. 193-195.

³⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 195. See the document entitled *Note referring to the situation of the relations between Popular Republic of Romania and the state of Israel*, p. 195- 197.

³⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 197.

³⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 198. See the document entitled *Telegram of the Romanian legation to Tel Aviv towards the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning the position of Israeli government towards the incidents from the frontier with Syria*, p. 198- 199.

³⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 213. See the document entitled *Telegram of Romanian legation at Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning the relations Israel – United States*, p. 213- 214.

Arabian Conference from Cairo. Other problems approached by the American diplomacy was the problem of nuclear research in Israel, the situation of Arabian refugees in Palestine, the evolution of the Arab – Israeli conflict concerning the exploitation of the waters of Jordan. The American power intended to deliver modern American armament to Israel.

In a telegram of Romanian Legation to Israel towards the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from August 26, 1964, it is shown that Golda Meir made a historical analysis of Israeli external politics, mentioning that Israel wants to have peaceful relations with the countries from Eastern Europe, independent of their leading ideologies. It seems that countries such as Popular Republic of Bulgaria, Popular Republic of Poland, Yugoslavia, Popular Republic of Romania are countries of utmost importance for the politics of Israel in Eastern Europe.³⁹ (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 221- 223) It seems that Israeli government is content by the diplomatic stance of Romania and between the two countries are established good diplomatic, commercial and touristic relations. In the commercial field, it could be achieved fruitful relations pursuing the advantage of both sides. Golda Meir points out that the interest of Israel for Romania is very high. Thus, Moshe Dayan, the Israeli minister of Agriculture, manifested his interest to know the Romanian agriculture.

In a note concerning the discussion of Grigore Geamănu, secretary of State Council of Popular Republic of Romania with Zvi Ayalon, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister of Israel to Bucharest concerning the problem of Jewish emigration from Romania from September 3, 1964, it is shown that at August 31, 1964 Grigore Geamănu received in audience the minister of Israel to Bucharest, Zvi Ayalon. The discussion started from remembering the good existent relationships between Romania and Israel. Zvi Ayalon asked information about what else he can visit in Romania. He added that Israel is not rich in natural resources, while G. Geamănu expressed his conviction that with the help of Israeli people, one day Israel could look like a beautiful garden. The two diplomats promised to pursue good relations between the two countries, also for the future⁴⁰. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 223-225)

Among the personalities that expressed their wish to visit Romania in September 1964 was Mordechai Namir, mayor of Tel Aviv, who, at the suggestion of Israeli government, as a participant to the confederation of cities from Warsaw, wanted to make a visit to Bucharest. M. Namir is an important personality in Israel and, also, member of Mapai governing party⁴¹. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 225-226)

In a telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv, to Corneliu Mănescu, minister of External Affairs of R.S. Romania, concerning the actual stage of development of Romanian – Israeli relations from February 22, 1966, it is revealed the discussion between Valeriu Georgescu and Abba Eban, Israeli Minister of External Affairs who considered that cultural relations have a wider field of development. The commercial relations are full of difficulties because the exports from Romania are small in the payment balance, but there came up a perspective of improvement of these relations. Israeli state and Romanian state policy have a good field of development in the area of Middle East where they can influence the conception of cohabiting nationalities.⁴² (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 236-237)

In a telegram relating the discussion of Zalam Shazar, president of Israel during the years 1963- 1973, and the minister of Foreign Affairs of the state of Israel, Abba Eban, from February 23,

³⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 221. See the document entitled *Telegram of the Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania concerning the position of Israeli government towards Romania and its rapports with other Socialist countries*, p. 221- 223.

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 224. See the document entitled *Note of conversation of Grigore Geamănu, secretary of the Council of State of Popular Republic of Romania with Zvi Ayalon, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister of the state of Israel to Bucharest concerning the problem of emigrations of Romanian citizens in Israel*, p. 223- 225.

⁴¹ *Ibidem*, p. 225. See the document entitled *Note of conversation of Pompiliu Macovei, vice- minister of External Affairs of Popular Republic of Romania with Zvi Ayalon, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister of the state of Israel to Bucharest, concerning the projected visit of the mayor of Tel Aviv in Romania*, p. 225- 226.

⁴² *Ibidem*, p. 236. See the document entitled *Telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv, to Corneliu Mănescu, minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the stage of the Romanian – Israeli relations*, p. 236-237.

1966, the last one presented the state of the relations Romania – Israel. The approached problems focused on: the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries; the support brought by the Jews originary from Romania to the construction of the state of Israel; the development of Romania from an economic, social and cultural point of view; the achievements brought by Israel in the field of economy and science; to greet the Romanian president of the State Council, Chivu Stoica and the wish of prosperity to Romanian people⁴³. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 237-238)

Concerning the aspects of the relations between Romania and Israel, in a note relating the discussion between Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv with Aviezer Chelouche, director of the Economic department of Ministry of External Affairs of the Israeli state concerning the development of economic bilateral relations from April 26, 1966, there are reflected the next problems: as Israeli experts made a study concerning the economic and comercial relations of Israel with the Socialist states, they noticed that, during the years 1961 – 1965, the total amount of bilateral shifts doubled in comparison with the precedent years. Romania is an interesting partner for Israel for some of its products that Israel needs, such as the meet, conventional compustibles or diesel. In what concerns the development of commercial relations between Romania and Israel, Israel sent his commercial delegation in Romania, and, approved a technical credit⁴⁴. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 240-242)

In a telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister to Tel Aviv, to Eduard Mezincescu, vice-minister of External Affairs concerning the Israel's position towards the situation from the region and bilateral relations, it is made reference to the party offered by E. Doron, director of the Division of Eastern Europe, in May 3, 1966, to which they were invited some Romanian diplomats. Some problems that arose in the discussion were Israel's intention to attract on his side the main leaders of western model democracy such as United States, France and England, but also Soviet Union that to take stance in his favor in the Arab- Israeli conflict. Israeli diplomats try, in consequence, to have good relations with Soviet Union. E. Doron underlined the favorable way in which Israel is regarded by Polish Republic, Popular Republic of Romania and also Popular Republic of Hungary. The Israeli diplomats manifested their intention to militate for better relations with the Romanian state that this is manifested in the intention to put a sum of money in deposit in hard currency to the disposition of the Romanian state. The problem of the money deposit, is in the opinion of the Romanian diplomats, a problem of the two National Banks of Romania and Israel⁴⁵. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 243-244)

A note of discussion of Eduard Mezincescu, vice minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania with Zvi Ayalon, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister of Israeli state to Bucharest reveals that in May 19, 1966, it took place the meeting of Eduard Mezincescu with Zvi Ayalon. E. Mezincescu expressed his conviction that Zvi Ayalon goes back in Israel with good opinions about Romania and its people. After seven years of being foreign diplomat in Romania, Zvi Ayalon goes back in Israel with the conviction that Israel will develop its relations with communist countries⁴⁶. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 245-246) Concerning the departure in Israel of Zvi Ayalon, former minister of Israel in Romania, in a discussion of Ayalon with Chivu Stoica, president of the Council of State of Romanian state from June 2 1966, the Israeli diplomat acknowledges that

⁴³ *Ibidem*, p. 238. See the document entitled *Telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv, to Corneliu Mănescu, minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania, concerning the discussion with the president Zalam Shazar and the minister of External Affairs of the Israeli state*, p. 237-238.

⁴⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 240-241. See the document entitled *Note of conversation of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipoentiary minister of Socialist Republic of Romania at Tel Aviv, with Avizier Chelouche, director of Economic Department of the Minister of External Affairs of the state of Israel concerning the development of bilateral economic relations*, p. 240 – 242.

⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 243- 244. See the document entitled *Telegram of Vlad Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister al Tel Aviv to Eduard Mezincescu, vice – minister of the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning some Israeli positions towards the situation from the region and bilateral relations*.

⁴⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 245. See the document entitled *Note of discussion of Eduard Mezincescu, vice- minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania, with Zvi Ayalon, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister of the state of Israel, at Bucharest, reffering to some aspects of the bilateral relations*, p. 245- 246.

Romanian people works to develop rapidly the country. Ayalon considers that August 23, 1944, Romania passed through a process of positive change of mentality. Peoples should decide alone their destiny, without external forces. In the field of economic exchanges and cultural relations, there is room for deepening the cooperation⁴⁷. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 248- 250)

Mordechai Avgar, the diplomat with business affairs of Israel in Romania, presented in a note his desiderates that the diplomatic missions of Romania in Israel and of Israel in Romania, to become embassies. Another request was that Mr. Eliezer Doron to be named minister of Israel in Romania⁴⁸. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 255-256)

A telegram of Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv to the Minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania debates the Israeli perceptions concerning the military agreement between Syria and Egypt. It seems that a military agreement between Egypt and Syria could prevent the Syrian government from any action against Israel. Another comment is that the military agreement Egypt – Syria will not last too much because of the instability of Arab world, but also because of the fact that Israel and pro- occidental states from region are against this agreement⁴⁹. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 257)

In a telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv, to the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania regarding the cultural issues of the collaboration Romania – Israel, is reflected the meeting of the Israeli minister of culture Zalman Aranne with the Romanian representative, the academician Stefan Balan to make a visit in Israel. He states that the majority of Romanian immigrants that emigrated from Romania to Israel are well trained, educated, having a bright horizon because of the education they received in Romania⁵⁰. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 262-263)

Concerning the same issue of cultural exchanges Romania – Israel, in a telegram of Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv to the Minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania from January 26, 1967, it is presented a cultural action that took place at Ierusalim, a concert directed by Ion Voicu, very appreciated by the Israeli counterparts. The cultural representations will continue with a Romanian exhibition of paintings in Israel⁵¹. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 263-264)

Another document is enacted by Romanian legation at Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the maintenance of diplomatic cooperation between Socialist Republic of Romania and Federal Republic of Germany from February 5, 1967. For signing of these agreements of cooperation the Romanian minister Corneliu Mănescu went to Bonn. The establishment of a relation between Romania and Federal Republic of Germany is a rupture of “Hallstein doctrine” that stipulated that if a state acknowledged the state of Democratic German Republic, Federal Republic of Germany will break off the relationship with the respective state⁵². (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 264-266)

⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 248- 250. See the document entitled *Note of discussion of Chivu Stoica, president of the Council of State of Socialist Republic of Romania, with Zvi Ayalon, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister of the state of Israel to Bucharest, referring to the evolution of billateral relations with the occassion of closing its mission*, p. 248- 250.

⁴⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 255. See the document entitled *Note of discussion, director of protocol in the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania, with Mordechai Avgar, representative with business of the state of Israel, referring to the accreditation of a new diplomatic Israeli representative to Bucharest and the rise to the rank of diplomatic missions*, p. 255- 256.

⁴⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 257. See the document entitled *Telegram of the Romanian legation to Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the Israeli perception concerning military agreement Syria – Egypt*.

⁵⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 262. See the document entitled *Telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv, to the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania, concerning the collaboration and the cultural exchanges between the two states*, p. 262 – 263.

⁵¹ *Ibidem*, p. 263. See the document entitled *Telegram of Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the Romanian – Israeli cultural exchanges*, p. 263-264.

⁵² *Ibidem*, p. 264- 265. See the document entitled *Telegram of Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv towards the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the Israeli reactions to the external policy of Romania, in the context of the evolution of the rapports with Arabian countries from the zone*, p. 264-266.

The external politics of Romania in the context of the evolution of the rapports with the Arabian countries from the Middle East is evaluated by Israel and these reflections are revealed by a telegram of Romanian legation at Tel Aviv to the Minister of External Affairs of Romania. The telegram mentions a discussion with Israel Galili, the minister of Informations, that remarked the initiative, the active role and the effort of the delegation of Socialist Republic of Romania at the last session of United Nations Organization “in order to base the relationships between countries with different social systems on the respect of their sovereignties, independence, equality and the law of each people to decide its own destiny, without external interference”⁵³. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 266-267) Romania, having good relations with Arab world, mediates the improvement of the relations between Israel and Arabian countries.

Concerning economic bilateral relations between Romania and Israel, there is a telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv to Ilie Verdeț, prime- vice- president of the Romanian Council of Ministers where it is mentioned the presence of Israeli delegation formed from ministers of finance (Sapir), industry and commerce, finances, development of agriculture, tourism, of banking system. Thanking for the presence of Romanian delegations in Israel, the Israeli representatives considers that the economic relations and exchanges Romania – Israel did not reached a high level of performance and they envisage that in 2-3 years the flux should be of 20 million dollars for each side. Israel would build factories and institutions in Romania and accept to be paid in products. Other future prospects are cooperation of technical and scientific nature⁵⁴. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 268-269) The same problem of bilateral economic relations is revealed by a telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv, to the Minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the project of the economic agreement between Romania and Israel. Israel had the intention to develop commercial relations with socialist states from Oriental Europe and, on the other side, Romania wanted to pursue economic relations with all the states from the world independent of their social and economic system. Romanian diplomats are very well trained and know what means bilateral cooperation on tertiary markets⁵⁵. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 269-270) In the same field of economic cooperation, there is a note from April 13, 1967 which relates a discussion between Corneliu Mănescu, minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania with Pinhas Sapir, ministry of finance of the state of Israel. Israeli minister, Sapir paid a visit to Romanian Minister of External Affairs, Corneliu Mănescu. Both parties would like to do more than do the actual commercial existent agreement. There is a possibility that Romania and Israel to help each other on tertiary markets. According to the discussion there were identified the domains in which economic bilateral cooperation Romania – Israel to produce. Sapir studied the Romanian proposal of possibilities of building economic objectives with the payment in products. There were, in consequence, to be built enterprises of ailments industry (meet, conserved fruits and vegetables, poudner milk) for which the Israelis to pay 10 – 15 million dollars. In the future, Israelis will buy more Romanian products and the flux will reach the level of 20-25 million dollars for each of the parties concerned. Cooperation Romania – Israel on tertiary markets is envisaged. Different social – political systems of Romania and Israel are not impediments and can not hinder the actual cooperation. Exchange of specialists in agriculture and scientific research is envisaged⁵⁶. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 270-273)

⁵³ *Ibidem*, p. 266. See the *Telegram of the Romanian legation to Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the appreciations of the Israeli government concerning the external politics of Romania in the context of evolution of the repports with the Arabian countries from this areal*, p.266-267.

⁵⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 269. See the *Telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv to Ilie Verdeț, prime- vice- minister of the Council of Ministers of Socialist Republic of Romania, concerning the development of Romanian – Israelielian Relations concerning the bilateral economic cooperation*, p. 268-269.

⁵⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 270. See the document entitled *Telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv, to the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of România towards the project of Economic Romanian- Israeliian Agreement*, p. 269- 270.

⁵⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 273. See the document entitled *Note of conversation of Corneliu Mănescu, minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania with Pinhas Sapir, minister of Finances of the state of Israel, concerning the evolution of the economic bilateral relations*, p. 270-273.

In problems of external politics concerning the aggravation of the relations Israeli – Arabian states, there is the telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv towards Petre Burlacu, vice- minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania. Valeriu Georgescu is informed from Ariel Ilan, the director of the division Eastern Europe from Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, about the events that happened during the last 24 hours at the boundary with Israel. The situation is tensed because of the terrorist movement Al Fatah⁵⁷. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 278- 280) A telegram from Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv shows that the military offensive from the boundary of Israel with Egypt are obvious. Foreign diplomats were invited to the Israeli Ministry of External Affairs to be informed about the closure of Tiran stretch underlining the danger that resides in Egypt's military preparation⁵⁸. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 280- 281) Another telegram is mentioning the attack of Jordan- Israeli artillery that hindered the Orthodox Romanian Church from Jerusalem⁵⁹. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 282) The Israeli – Arabian conflict is revealed by a telegram of the Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv to the Minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania. Israel promised not to attack any neighboring country until it will not be attacked by other states. The foreign diplomats think that in case of armistice, Israel will not take his troops from Sinai and Gaza, only if Egypt gives up to the blockade from Eilath port⁶⁰. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 282-283)

In a telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv, towards Petru Burlacu, vice- minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the position of Communist Israeli Party towards the conflict with Arabian countries from June 20 1967, Tel Aviv, Israeli representatives sent, from the beginning, many thanks to president Nicolae Ceaușescu for the position adopted and the envisaged measures in order to dismantle the crisis from Middle East. The Communist Party from Soviet Union supports the Arabian countries and accuses Israel concerning the present conflict.⁶¹ (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 292- 294) Concerning the international public opinion towards the Arabian conflict, we find the text of a telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania. It is very appreciated the speech of Romanian President of the Council of Ministers, Ion Gheorghe Maurer in the General Assembly of United Nations. Also, the position of Romania in the conflict is highly appreciated. The position of Romania is appreciated by French ambassadors and Netherlands, but also by the president Nixon⁶². (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 296)

In a telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, the extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister of Tel Aviv, to Corneliu Mănescu, minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the discussions with Abba Eban, minister of External Affairs of the state of Israel, Valeriu Georgescu presents his meeting with Abba Eban in August 4, 1967. In the context of Arabian war, „Romanian diplomacy illustrated for other countries the way of maintaining relations

⁵⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 279. See the document entitled *Telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv to Petru Burlacu, vice- minister of the Minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the increase of tension in Israeli- Arabian relations*, p. 278- 280.

⁵⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 281. See the document entitled *Telegram of Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the escalation of Israeli- Egyptian incidents and the mobilisation of both armies*, p. 280-281.

⁵⁹ *Ibidem*, p. 282. See the document entitled *Telegram of the Romanian legation from Tel Aviv towards the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the avariation of Orthodox Romanian Church from Ierusalim after the Jordanian – Israeli shootings*.

⁶⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 283. See the document entitled *Telegram of Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv towards the Minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the evolution of Israeli- Arabian conflict*, p. 282- 283.

⁶¹ *Ibidem*, p. 292. See the document entitled *Telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv, towards Petre Burlacu, vice-minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the position of Communist Israeli Party towards the conflict with Arabian countries*, p. 292- 294.

⁶² *Ibidem*, p. 296. See the document entitled *Telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv, to the Minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning some Israeli and foreign comments concerning the attitude of Socialist Republic of Romania in the problem of Near East*.

with all the states, independent of their regime, filosofic or social, and it succeeded to maintain relations with all the socialist states with all divergencies existent among them”⁶³. (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 300-302) The litigious positions between Israel and Arab countries were debated in the framework of United Nations Organisation. Not only the existent conflict has to be solved, but also it had to be changed the political, judicial and psihologic position of Arab states have to be changed.⁶⁴ (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 301) Among Arabian countries and Israel must be established treaties. Even Soviet Union tries to convince Arabian countries not to militate for the distruction of Israel.⁶⁵ (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 302)

The diplomatic correspondance between the Romanian diplomats to Israel and the Ministry of External Affairs from Romania continues either with problems related with economic cooperation Romania – Israel, or with different positions of Romanian state towards the crisis from Middle Orient. Thus, in a telegram of Valentin Lipatti, extraordinary ambassador and plenipotentiary at U.N.E.S.C.O., towards Vasile Gliga, vice-minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania towards the position of Israeli government concerning the solving out the crisis from Near East from January 23, 1968, Paris in which is reflected that Israel ambassador to UNESCO, M. Avida, states that Arabian countries want to challenge Israel one more time and want to start a new war with the financial help of USSR. Israel asks for „de jure” acknowledgement of Israel by the Arab countries. Israel detains an advantage in the region, it detains the Arabian territories occupied in June 1967. Avida declares that United States want to support Israel. Special attention is given by the document to Romanian – Israeli relations. Israel appreciates the wise Romanian politic which is in its favor and has on its base economic and commercial relations⁶⁶. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 334-336)

In a telegram of the Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the measures taken by Israeli authorities in the occupied territories from February 11, 1968, Tel Aviv, it was reflected that after the inquiries of foreign diplomats it seems that after terrorist actions of the organisation „Al Fatah”, the Israeli Defence minister strenghtened military administration of the Arabian people, in Jordanian territory and Gaza strip⁶⁷. (Bleoancă et al., 2000: 361) The situation is very tensed in these regions. Famillies are separated. A lot of terrorist incidents take place. All Arabians from this areal blame the terrorist organisation „Al Fatah”.

In a telegram of Romanian Legation to Tel Aviv to the Minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the Israeli reactions to the decision of the Council of Security of U.N. of condemnation of military actions in Jordan. The Council of Security of United Nations blamed the recent military actions from Jordanie. The event was that on March 21, 1968, 15000 of people were involved in a raid on the territory of Jordanie against Palestinian resistance and this action of Israel was blamed by the United Nations. The Israeli Parliament considered this invasion as being necessary and unavoidable⁶⁸. (Bleoancă et al, 2000: 361- 362)

These are only a few problems emphasized by the collection *Romania – Israel. Diplomatic Documents*, edited by Dumitru Preda et al., only a few facts from Israeli- Romanian diplomatic life

⁶³ *Ibidem*, p. 301. See the document entitled *Telegram of Valeriu Georgescu, extraordinary representative and plenipotentiary minister at Tel Aviv towards Corneliu Mănescu, minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania, concerning the discussions with Abba Eban, minister of External Affairs of the state of Israel*, p. 300- 302.

⁶⁴ *Ibidem*, p.301.

⁶⁵ *Ibidem*, p.302.

⁶⁶ *Ibidem*, p.335. See the document entitled *Telegram of Valentin Lipatti, extraordinary ambassador and plenipotentiary to U.N.E.S.C.O. towards Vasile Gliga, vice-minister of Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania, concerning the position of Israeli government towards the resolution of the crisis from the Near East*, p. 334- 336.

⁶⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 343. See the document entitled *Telegram of Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv to the Ministry of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the measures taken by Israeli authorities in the occupied territories*, p. 343- 344.

⁶⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 361. See the document entitled *Telegram of the Romanian Legation at Tel Aviv towards the Minister of External Affairs of Socialist Republic of Romania concerning the Israeli reactions to the decision of the Council of Security of United Nations of condemnation of military actions in Jordania*, p. 361- 362.

during the years 1948- 1989. The relationships between the two countries evolved in time, manifesting interest in economic life, cultural life, human rights field, migration, religion.

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